

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph spanning pages 1-2, between page 1, line 23, and page 2, line 12 of the specification with the following:

Such a circuit arrangement is known from US 6,426,597 B2, more in particular as an operating circuit for HID lamps. The capacitor C1 shunts a series arrangement comprising the lamp connection terminals and the inductor L2. After the lamp has ignited the control circuit controls the circuit arrangement alternately in the first operating state and the second operating state at a low frequency. In the first operating state, the first switching element together with the second diode and the inductor L1 and capacitor C1 form a first DC-DC-converter of the type "down converter". During this first operating state, the first DC-DC-converter generates a DC current with a first polarity direction that flows through the lamp. In practise-practice, an AC current with a small amplitude and a frequency equal to the frequency with which the first switching element is controlled is superimposed on

the DC current. In the second operating state, the second switching element together with the first diode and the inductor L1 and capacitor C1 form a second DC-DC-converter of the type "down converter". During this second operating state, the second DC-DC-converter generates a DC current with a second polarity direction that flows through the lamp. Again a high frequency AC current with a small amplitude and a frequency that equals the frequency at which the second switching element is operated is superimposed on the DC current. Thus the lamp current is a low frequency square wave shaped AC current. The known circuit arrangement offers important advantages such as low component count and a high open circuit voltage.

Replace the paragraph on page 10, between lines 5-12 of the specification with the following:

When the input terminals K1 and K2 are connected to a supply voltage source the lamp is first ignited. In the ignition phase, the control circuit CONTROL renders the third switching element K3 S3 and the fourth switching element K4-S4 alternately conductive and non-conductive at a frequency close to the resonance frequency

of inductor L2 and capacitor C2. When the lamp La ignites, the voltage across C2 generates a high peak current through the lamp, C1 and either the third or the fourth switching element. In order to prevent damage to the components due to this peak current special precautions have to be taken, such as an additional inductor in the current path (not shown in Fig. 1).

Replace the paragraph on page 11, between lines 28-34 of the specification with the following:

When the input terminals K1 and K2 are connected to a supply voltage source the lamp is first ignited. In the ignition phase, the control circuit CONTROL renders the third switching element K3 S3 and the fourth switching element K4-S4 alternately conductive and non-conductive at a frequency close to the resonance frequency of inductor L2 and capacitor C2. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 2, the peak current caused by the discharging of capacitor C2 mainly flows through the lamp La and capacitor C1 so that damage to the circuit arrangement is prevented.